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DEC 14 2005

Technology Center 2100

In re Application of WATANABE
Application No.: 10/767,247
Filing Date: January 28, 2004
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
COPYING AND BACKUP IN STORAGE
SYSTEMS

DECISION ON PETITION
FOR ACCELERATED
EXAMINATION UNDER
M.P.E.P. §708.02(VIII)

This is a decision on the petition filed October 24, 2005 under 37 CFR §1.102(d) and M.P.E.P. §708.02(VIII): Accelerated Examination, to make the above-identified application special.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

M.P.E.P. §708.02, Section VIII, which sets out the prerequisites for a grantable petition for Accelerated Examination under 37 CFR §1.102(d), states in relevant part:

A new application (one which has not received any examination by the examiner) may be granted special status provided that applicant (and this term includes applicant's attorney or agent) complies with each of the following items:

(A) Submits a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h);

(B) Presents all claims directed to a single invention, or if the Office determines that all the claims presented are not obviously directed to a single invention, will make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status. The election may be made by applicant at the time of filing the petition for special status. Should applicant fail to include an election with the original papers or petition and the Office determines that a requirement should be made, the established telephone restriction practice will be followed. If otherwise proper, examination on the merits will proceed on claims drawn to the elected invention. If applicant refuses to make an election without traverse, the application will not be further examined at that time. The petition will be denied on the ground that the claims are not directed to a single invention, and the application will await action in its regular turn. Divisional applications directed to the nonelected inventions will not automatically be given special status based on papers filed with the petition in the parent application. Each such application must meet on its own all requirements for the new special status;

Decision on Petition

(C) Submits a statement(s) that a pre-examination search was made, listing the field of search by class and subclass, publication, Chemical Abstracts, foreign patents, etc. >The pre-examination search must be directed to the invention as claimed in the application for which special status is requested.< A search made by a foreign patent office satisfies this requirement >if the claims in the corresponding foreign application are of the same or similar scope to the claims in the U.S. application for which special status is requested<;

(D) Submits one copy each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims if said references are not already of record; and

(E) Submits a detailed discussion of the references, which discussion points out, with the particularity required by 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c), how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references.

Because the petition filed October 24, 2005 meets the criteria set forth above, the petition to make special is **GRANTED**.

The application file is being forwarded to the Examiner for accelerated examination in accordance with M.P.E.P. §708.02, Section VIII. If the application is subsequently allowed, it will be given priority for printing. See M.P.E.P. §1309.

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